

Behind the Headlines

Annotated Front Page

Mitski Meet America's sharpest songwriter



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Skyline

This panel helps to market the paper by tempting readers inside. It usually tells readers about stories in other parts of the paper.

Film & Music

PM hit by No 10 exodus as four aides quit in one day

Headline

The biggest headline on the page is called the "main splash". This is a serious story so no jokes are made in the headline. Headlines are written by subeditors.



Policy chief Mirza is first to leave, with stinging criticism of Johnson

Heather Stewart
Political editor

Four of Boris Johnson's principal private secretaries quit last night as the Downing Street party used to shake his hold on Johnson's longest-serving chief, Munira Mirza, was the first to go, using a stinging resignation letter to accuse the prime minister of "scurrilous" behaviour when he falsely linked the Labour leader, Keir Starmer, to the failure to bring the paedophile Jimmy Savile to justice.

Within hours, three more of Johnson's staff had gone - Dan

Rosenfield, his chief of staff; Martin Reynolds, his principal private secretary; and Jack Doyle, his director of communications.

All three have been implicated in Downing Street's response to the lockdown parties that are now being

prosecuted. The Metropolitan Police shared your own party in May 2020.

Expected to be part of the team in the Downing Street press office, Mirza's resignation came out of the blue.

And in a sign of Johnson's waning authority, this also provoked the chancellor to issue a rare rebuke, as he also criticised the prime minister for his jibe against the Labour leader.

Asked about the comments at a press conference yesterday, Rishi

Sunak said: "Being honest, I wouldn't have said it." Pressed repeatedly on whether Johnson should apologise, he said that was a matter for the prime minister.

Sunak has previously declined to criticise Johnson directly throughout the weeks of revelations about lockdown-busting parties in Downing Street, though he has acknowledged that mistakes were made.

'It is desperately sad that you let yourself down by making a scurrilous accusation'

Munira Mirza
Letter to prime minister

▲ Munira Mirza with Johnson in 2020. She said his remark about Starmer "was not the normal cut and thrust of politics" PHOTOGRAPH: YUJI MORIKAWA

The flurry of resignations came at the end of an important day for the government as the chancellor sought to cut the deficit.

Body Text

The main text of a news story, written by the reporter.

House of Commons session on Monday that as director of public prosecutions from 2008 to 2013, Starmer had "spent most of his time prosecuting journalists and failing to prosecute Jimmy Savile". In fact, Starmer took no

Households braced for further fuel bill rises

Larry Elliott and Phillip Inman

Byline

The name of the writer(s). Sometimes their job title or where they are writing from is included.

prospect of the average household paying an extra £700 a year for gas and electricity, the chancellor said he accepted it was a "very difficult time" but that a combination of temporary, repayable discounts and council tax rebates would help soften the blow. Sunak said that as things stood, the price cap of £1,971 set by the energy regulator, Ofgem, would rise again in the autumn, prompting calls for the government to do more to help those on the lowest incomes.

The Resolution Foundation think-tank said even with the government support, the number of people living in fuel stress - households where more than 10% of the budget is spent on energy - would double to 5 million.

"These energy crisis measures are woefully inadequate and will leave those on the lowest incomes and in the least efficient homes in deep peril," said Adam Scorer, chief executive of the charity National Energy Action. "We needed deep, targeted support for the



▲ Rishi Sunak, who said that he accepted it was a "very difficult time"

Edition Dots

We print up to three different editions per night. One dot means this is the first edition. During elections and special events, we might print up to five editions.

Turn

Often front page stories continue elsewhere in the paper.

Caption

Captions describe the photograph and link it to the news story. Often they include the photographer's name.